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Governor's Commission on Hispanic Affairs
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The Governor's Commission on Hispanic Affairs advises the Governor, the General Assembly, and agencies within the Executive Department on matters relating to Hispanics in Maryland. It works with the Hispanic community, private groups, State and local government to serve and represent Hispanic people of Maryland and promote their interests.

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Hispanic Heritage Awards to Honor Outstanding Leaders

Ceremony and Luncheon is Highlight of Hispanic Business Conference

The Governor's Commission on Hispanic Affairs is proud announce the recipients of the 2008 Hispanic Heritage Awards. The awards will be presented at a luncheon ceremony, October 15 at the BWI Marriott, 1743 West Nursery Road, Baltimore, MD 21240. Sponsored by the Governor's Commission on Hispanic Affairs, the awards presentation is the highlight of the 7th annual Maryland Hispanic Business Conference. The ceremony recognizes outstanding leaders of the Hispanic community whose service and humanitarian spirit helps to improve the quality of life for Hispanics living in Maryland. The luncheon will take place from 12 p.m. – 2 p.m.

Hispanic Heritage Awards nomination forms were submitted to the Governor's Commission on Hispanic Affairs along with a written description of no more than 500 words, explaining how a nominee meets the nomination criteria. Among the nine categories for recognition are Lifetime Achievement, Nonprofit Organization, Unsung Hero, Hispanic Legacy, Leaders on the Rise, Educator of the Year, Public Safety, Faith-based and Health Care Champion. For information on the Hispanic Heritage Awards luncheon contact the Governor's Commission on Hispanic Affairs at 410-767-7857 or online at Hispanic@goci.state.md.us.

Dr. Alfredo Quinones-Hinojosa, a former undocumented migrant worker will serve as luncheon keynote speaker. Dr. Quinones-Hinojosa is currently an Associate Professor of Neurosurgery, Oncology, Neuroscience, and Cellular and Molecular Medicine with the Johns Hopkins Medical system. Dr. Quinones-Hinojosa serves as Director of the brain tumor program at Hopkins' Bayview campus.

He is expert in treating intradural spinal tumors as well as brainstem and eloquent brain tumors in adults with the use of neurophysiological monitoring during surgery. In addition to delivering

the keynote address, Dr. Quinones-Hinojosa will also be honored as Hispanic Heritage Award recipient in the Healthcare Champion category.

Dr. Quinones-Hinojosa was recently inducted to the “Hall of Fame” by the Hispanic Scholarship Fund. He has been named as one the United States “Brilliant 10 Scientists” by Popular Science Magazine as well as one of the “Top 100 Most Influential Hispanics in the U.S.” by the Hispanic Business Journal. Later this year he will be receiving the “National Leadership in Science and Medicine Award” by the Merage Foundation.

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<u>Category</u>	<u>Winners</u>
Leader on the Rise	Lucia Zegarra
Public Safety Hero	Frederick Police Chief Kim C. Dine
Non-Profit of the Year	Centro de Ayuda
Faith-Based Champion	Sister Agnes Oman
Educator of the Year	Vicmarie Arocho
Civil Rights Champion	Guy Djoken
Healthcare Champion	Dr. Elmer Huerta Dr. Alfredo Quiñonez Hinojosa
Unsung Hero	Nelson Ortega Marialva de Matos
Hispanic Legacy	Dr. Claudia Campos
Lifetime Achievement	Mary Lou Pontius